



Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

11th April 2024, 9:30am

at St Margarets Church and via ZOOM

Attendance

Affiliates:

In-person:

The Revd. Fraser McDermott (ACM), Capt. Monika Clark (Church Army), The Revd. Andrew Allan-Johns (SOMA).

Online:

The Revd. Mark Hood (Latimer Fellowship), The Revd. David Clancey (Latimer Fellowship), The Revd. Rosie Fyfe (NZCMS) joined at 9:53am

AFFIRM Group(s):

The Revd. Ian Hardcastle (Auckland AFFIRM Representative) Chairman of AFFIRM.

Associate Parish:

None

Individual Associates:

Mr David Jamison (In person), The Revd. Anne Aspden (Online), Mr David Hall joined (In person) at 10:18am.

Non-voting:

The Revd. Sister Lorraine Lloyd (Executive Officer), Capt. Peter Lloyd (Network Officer), Mr Michael Ng (Administrator).

1) Apologies

The Rev. Dr Andrew Burgess (Bishopdale Theological College), The Ven. Canon Simon Martin (Nelson Diocese)

2) Speaker: The Rev. Fraser McDermott– Hope for the Future

- **Reflecting on ACM's Origins**
 - ACM was birthed from difficult circumstances.
 - Much time had been spent lamenting cultural challenges.

- Quoted Winston Churchill: *“This is our finest hour”* – to emphasise that the Gospel shines brightest in dark times.
- **The Cultural Climate as an Opportunity**
 - Fraser saw the current cultural climate as a chance for the church to communicate hope.
 - Urged the church to stop focusing inward and reach out to those without hope in Christ.
- **Ephesians and Hope**
 - Reminded everyone of their lives before Christ, highlighting how many today live without hope.
 - Stressed the importance of the church being marked by hope.
- **2 Corinthians and Moving Beyond Comfort Zones**
 - Quoted *“the love of Christ compels us”* to challenge believers to leave their comfort zones.
 - Acknowledged the exhaustion of leaders after spiritual efforts, referencing Elijah’s post-battle weariness.
 - Encouraged rest in Christ’s work and trust in the power of the Gospel.
- **Hope for the Future Informing Present Actions**
 - Encouraged the church to act now, inspired by hope for the future.
 - Praised Dave’s work for the next generation and saw signs of revival as the dechurched began returning.
- **Excitement about ACM’s International Connections**
 - Highlighted growing international interest in the Gospel.
 - Emphasised unity among believers and promoted upcoming events like REGEN24 to build hope and inspire the church.
- **Call to Action: Ignite the Gospel Fire**
 - Reassured the congregation that despite challenges, Jesus is committed to His church.
 - Quoted John Wesley: *“I have set myself on fire, and people come to watch me burn”* – urging believers to let the fire of the Gospel ignite their hearts.

Promotion: REGEN24 Conference

- **Conference Details**
 - Scheduled for 8-10 May, aiming to bring together 200 attendees.
 - Homes prepared to welcome participants.
 - Vision for the conference to become an annual event.
 - Aims to equip church leaders with fresh perspectives.
 - Requested support in encouraging people to attend.

3) Minutes of 30th March 2023 AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved at the Council meeting of 28/9/23.

There were no matters arising at this meeting.

Motion: That the Council be authorised to approve the minutes of this AGM in the next Council meeting.

Chair – Agreed

4) Chairman’s Report

Ian reported on the progress of the Auckland Evangelism Project over the past year. In 2022, a couple approached Ian, concerned about the lack of evangelism in the diocese, offering to fund a position for five years to address this issue. Ian worked with Peter and Lorraine to explore the idea of employing a consultant to assist parishes with growth.

After learning from successful initiatives in Nelson and Christchurch dioceses, they approached City to City (CTC), which offers a team of consultants with expertise across a range of specialties.

By the end of the year, three parishes committed to the programme, while others are still considering involvement. The parishes that joined began consultancy weekends, where interviews and SWOT analyses were conducted, with reports forthcoming to guide future growth. Next steps include vestries reviewing the reports, setting goals, and Vicars receiving coaching from CTC.

CCAANZ

The commitment to maintain contact with the Church of Confessing Anglicans in Aotearoa (CCAANZ) remains, with plans for a joint conference aimed at church leaders in October 2025 in Christchurch.

Note: The Chair's Full Report in Appendix A.

5) Network and Executive Officers' Report

City to City Initiative:

Lorraine highlighted the City to City (CTC) project, funded by an AFFIRM donor, focused on revitalising the church and evangelism in the diocese.

- She emphasised the significance of being invited to the **National Learning Cohort** for CTC, which provides valuable insights and a broader understanding of the initiative's goals.
- She is Priest-in-Charge of Blockhouse Bay parish which is participating in the CTC project. The recent report was "hard-hitting" but insightful, and she hopes the vestry will embrace the recommendations for future growth.

Grassroots Involvement:

- Lorraine expressed her appreciation for working on the ground, noting that this hands-on involvement deepens her connection with the parish community.
- Reported on parish networking, addressing leadership changes and challenges within several churches.
- Key Parish Updates:
 - **All Saints, Methven:** Leadership changes.
 - **Wakefield Anglican:** Don and Lynda Moses' retirement.
 - **North West Anglican:** Increased attendance with a new building but chose not to join CTC due to existing growth.
 - **Brightwater Parish:** Innovative ministry initiatives.

Mission Focus:

Lorraine remains committed to mission and outreach efforts, with her local parish witnessing encouraging developments, such as a young couple from Sri Lanka coming to faith. Prayer requests from individual supporters are shared with the network to ensure ongoing support.

Promotion and Training:

Lorraine reported ongoing promotions of church activities, including Healing Services led by Ian and Helen Hardcastle and REGEN conferences, advertised through the AFFIRM network.

Support for the AFFIRM Network:

- Lorraine continues her role as minute secretary for the ACM's Standing Committee.
- Pete was recently appointed to the Board of Church Army, New Zealand.
- Ongoing support for **Bishopdale Theological College** and **CMS**, with updates shared within the network.
- Simon Martin is involved in the **CTC National Learning Cohort**, keeping the network informed of developments.

Lorraine emphasised the balance between overarching goals and grassroots involvement in the CTC initiative, highlighting the potential for significant impact on the wider church community in New Zealand. Ongoing discussions are underway to expand participation in the initiative, with opportunities for further growth.

Additional points from Peter

- Three additional parishes may still join the CTC initiative.
- The national learning cohort was initiated after a conversation with Andrew Katay, leading to a meeting of leaders across New Zealand.
- Initially, 30 leaders participated, with 17 committing to learning the DNA of CTC
- The process will take a couple of years, with a decision about forming a NZ branch of CTC to follow.
- The initiative has the potential for a marked impact on churches across New Zealand.
- Example: One church in the cohort saw its attendance double from 30 to 60, illustrating the growth challenges and benefits.
- AFFIRM and ACM remain actively involved and will continue to support and report on the initiative's progress.

Note: The Network and Executive Officers' Full Report in Appendix B.

Rev. Rosie Fyfe asked whether the decision to set up something like CTC in New Zealand has been made or if it is still being explored.

Peter answered that no, the decision has not been made. The cohort of 17 people has committed to join and learn about the CTC initiative to explore where it might lead.

Motion: That the Network and Executive Officers' report be accepted.

Fraser/ Andrew AJ – Agreed

6) Administrator's Report

Michael presented the interim financial report covering the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The report has not yet been fully reviewed, but it will be submitted for approval at the next Council meeting. The accounts have been segmented to keep project finances, particularly the CTC initiative, separate from regular operations.

The CTC project is self-funded for five years, and no grants have yet been made to the participating parishes at the time, which accounts for higher-than-expected financial figures.

Regular accounts show a surplus of \$2,113 for the past year, attributed to reduced expenses as project work took priority.

The budget for the coming year will remain the same as the previous year, despite reduced expenses, as activity may increase. The budget proposes income of \$7,500 and expenditure of \$5,300 for the next year.

Fraser enquired if the budgeted amount of \$7,500 is sufficient for AFFIRM to operate effectively or if its activities are restricted by the available funds. Michael responded that the budget was reviewed last year, with subscription fees doubled. The current level of activity is manageable within the budget. However, a retreat to the Latimer Fellowship was missed due to travel costs, but it could be covered next time given the financial outlook. The low cost is relying on the goodwill of Lorraine and Peter.

The previous year's financials show an income of \$4,293 and expenditure of \$1,953. The proposed budget for the new financial year is more generous, with expected income of \$7,050 and expenditure of \$5,300. The discussion clarified that some affiliate payments were received late, which impacted the income figures.

Motion: Adopt the proposed 2024/25 budget for AFFIRM

Andrew AJ, Monica - Agreed

7) Any Other Business

David Hall introduced a 450-page New Zealand New Testament publication designed for evangelism and discipleship. The publication includes over 100 side stories, charts, and puzzles to engage readers. Approximately 100 churches are distributing copies, with some ordering large quantities for their communities. The New Zealand-specific content highlights Māori history and the Treaty of Waitangi, providing cultural relevance. The initiative is supported by an Advisory Board with members from various denominations, including Fraser and Bishop Ross.

8) Constitutional Changes

No changes were proposed for the Constitution.

9) Meeting Closed

The Chairman declared the AFFIRM 2024 AGM closed at 10:51am.
